

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 056182

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 3782 SENT ACTION SECSTATE MAR 01.

QUOTE S E C R E T BONN 03782

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM NATO SALT GW

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON FOLLOW-ON TO NAC CONSULTATIONS ON
ERW AND SALT

REFS: (A) STATE 52047; (B) USNATO 2027; (C) BONN 3324

BEGIN SUMMARY. BLECH TOLD THE CHARGE TODAY THAT THE FRG
WISHED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE US IN HANDLING THE ERW
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ISSUE BUT REITERATED THE INABILITY OF THE FRG, FOR
INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS, TO APPEAR TO BE OUT IN FRONT
ON THIS ISSUE. WITH REGARD TO NEXT STEPS ON SALT, BLECH
NOTED THAT THE FRG HAD MAINTAINED ITS OPPOSITION TO A
NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE IN SALT AT THE FEBRUARY 24 NAC
SESSION AND THAT THIS POSITION COULD
NOT BE CHANGED WITHOUT AGREEMENT BY THE FEDERAL SECURITY

COUNCIL. THE FRG LOOKED FORWARD TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THE ISSUE, BOTH BILATERALLY AND IN THE NAC, BUT DID NOT YET HAVE A SPECIFIC VIEW ON WHETHER THOSE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE OR AFTER THE MARCH 14 SESSION OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL. IN PART, BLECH SAID, THIS WOULD DEPEND ON US VIEWS AS TO THE URGENCY OF THE NEED FOR MOVING TO A FALLBACK POSITION. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARAGRAPH 7. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A MEETING WITH THE CHARGE THIS MORNING (MARCH 1), FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLECH EXPLAINED THE SEEMING URGENCY OF VON STADEN'S QUERY TO THE DEPARTMENT ON NEXT STEPS CONCERNING THE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD (ERW) (REF A). NOTING THAT THE GERMANS WERE IN THE PROCESS OF CONSIDERING HOW TO PROCEED, HE STATED THAT THEY SHARED US VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DISPOSING OF THE ISSUE BEFORE THE NATO SUMMIT AND THE UN SSOD. AT THE SAME TIME, SOME OF THE ALLIES HAD STATED THAT MORE TIME WAS NEEDED. THE GERMANS WISHED TO BE SUPPORTIVE BUT HAD THE INTERNAL PROBLEM THAT THEY COULD NOT APPEAR TO BE THE REPEAT THE ADVOCATE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE OF THE ERW. IT WAS THEREFORE VERY IMPORTANT TO ACT IN CONCERT WITH THE USG.

2. THE SPECIFIC TIMING REQUEST, HOWEVER, WAS RELATED TO GENSCHER'S TRAVELS. ON SATURDAY NIGHT, JUST BEFORE
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LEAVING FOR AFRICA, HE HAD ASKED BLECH TO OBTAIN US THOUGHTS ON NEXT STEPS, AND IT WAS GENSCHER'S QUESTIONS THAT VON STADEN RAISED WITH THE DEPARTMENT. THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS ABLE TO GET CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS TO GENSCHER UNTIL HE LEFT DAR ES SALAAM ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 28, BUT THEREAFTER HE WOULD BE MORE OR LESS "INCOMMUNICADO" FOR A FEW DAYS WHILE VISITING RWANDA AND BURUNDI.

3. BLECH STATED THAT THE FRG WAS ALSO VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN US VIEWS ON TIMING AND PROCEDURE FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THE SALT ISSUES, PARTICULARLY NON-CIRCUMVENTION AND THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. THE FRG HAD FOUND THE FEBRUARY 24 NAC CONSULTATION AND THE SUBSEQUENT EXPERTS' MEETING VALUABLE, BUT THE DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS HAD ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY. IN THE NAC CONSULTATION ON THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION ISSUE, BLECH SAID, THERE HAD BEEN DISCUSSION OF WHAT FROM THE FRG VIEWPOINT WOULD BE THE SECOND BEST POSSIBILITY -- AN INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT TO THE NAC AND TO THE CONGRESS OF THE MEANING OF A NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE. THE FRG HAD NEVERTHELESS MAINTAINED ITS FUNDAMENTAL POSITION -- THAT

ANY NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE --
AND WOULD INDEED BE UNABLE TO MODIFY THAT POSITION
WITHOUT AGREEMENT BY THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL.
THE FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD REPORT ON THE NAC DISCUSSION
AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL,
EXPECTED TO BE MARCH 14.

4. AS FOR NEXT STEPS, BLECH THOUGHT THAT THE FORMAT USED
ON FEBRUARY 24 (FULL NAC WITH ATTENDANCE OF EXPERTS)
HAD BEEN A VERY GOOD ONE AND PROBABLY SHOULD BE REPEATED.
THE FRG ALSO WOULD WISH TO HAVE FURTHER BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS BOTH ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION AND ON THE
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

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5. ASKED WHETHER HE MEANT THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF
CONSULTATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE OR AFTER THE
FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION, BLECH RESPONDED
THAT THE FRG DID NOT YET HAVE A FIRM VIEW ON TIMING
IT WOULD BE USEFUL FIRST OF ALL TO KNOW WHAT
TIME PARAMETERS THE US WAS CONSIDERING. ACDA DIRECTOR
WARNKE HAD EXPRESSED THE US DESIRE TO HAVE A FALLBACK
POSITION READY FOR USE WHEN THE RIGHT TIME CAME BUT HAD
NOT INDICATED WHEN HE EXPECTED THAT TIME TO BE. THE FRG
WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THAT
POINT.

6. AMBASSADOR RUTH, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING,
MADE TWO ADDITIONAL REQUESTS:

-- NOTING THAT THE FRG CONSIDERED THE INTRODUCTORY
STATEMENT MADE BY P/M DIRECTOR GELB ON FEBRUARY 24 VERY
IMPORTANT, HE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO
OBTAIN THE FULL TEXT OF THAT STATEMENT. HE NOTED THAT
THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD ALREADY BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO RELAY THIS REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT.

-- REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS OF THE ACDA REPORT
ON SALT TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, HE
ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE FULL
TEXT OF THE REPORT. IT WOULD BE USEFUL, HE SAID, TO KNOW
WHICH ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THE USG FELT COULD NOW
BE DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC.

7. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO BLECH'S QUESTION
(PARA 5) AS TO WHEN WE EXPECT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR
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US TO MOVE TO A FALLBACK POSITION, AS AN AID TO FRG
THINKING ON WHEN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE
INDICATED ON THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION ASPECT.

(B) GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER GELB'S FEBRUARY 24
SPEAKING NOTES CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FRG, EITHER
IN WASHINGTON OR VIA THIS EMBASSY;

(C) GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO RUTH'S REQUEST FOR
THE FULL TEXT OF THE ACDA REPORT. (WE NOTE THAT THE IPS
ARTICLE IN THE FEBRUARY 27 WIRELESS FILE STATES THAT THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE RELEASED "PORTIONS OF THE REPORT" AND ARE THUS
NOT CERTAIN WHETHER THE TEXT TRANSMITTED IN THE SAME
WIRELESS FILE IS THE FULL REPORT OR ONLY EXCERPTS.)
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